

Kuwait—a partner in progress

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KJRC has been rendering medical services to the poor people through numerous medical treatment centres set up in the villages.

They have also financed the construction of a 250 bed Friendship hospital building at Uttara which is another instance of the depth of love of the Kuwaiti people for their Bangladeshi brethren.

Further, in every Ramadan and Eid-ul-Adha, KJRC runs Iftari and Qurbani programmes throughout the country for the poor.

The third source of Kuwaiti private assistance comes through the Popular Committee of Kuwait, which is an organisation of Kuwaiti individuals who contribute their

Zakat money for carrying out welfare projects and construction of mosques and madrasahs. This organisation, alone, has built over four hundred mosques throughout Bangladesh. It carries out programmes ensuring supply of safe drinking water through installation of tube wells. It also has an orphan sponsorship programme.

Two other Kuwaiti NGOs involved in poverty-alleviation activities in Bangladesh are the Islamic World Committee and the Society for the Revival of Islamic Heritage. The latter has also set up a huge Children's Orphanage Complex in Gazipur and a Kidney Dialysis Centre in Dhaka.

The money that these private organisations have spent so far, exceeds billions of taka. Their assistance programme has ushered in a hope of a better future for the under privileged segment of society in Bangladesh.

Foreign policy of Kuwait

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 tage passed by forefathers, ambitions and security, language and religion, history and geography, air and water, an undiluted and a never ending inter-twined interest. Kuwait always has a throbbing heart for the concerns of the Arab nation. Its hands are always extended towards them. It is an active and vocal member of the Arab League and plays a leading role in promoting economic prosperity in the region through Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Being a Gulf State, Kuwait played a pivotal role in bringing about the unification of the Gulf Emirates. The formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a brainchild of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, was perhaps one of the most important landmark of Kuwait's foreign policy. The idea of

floating such a regional forum emanates from a common perception and outlook on regional and other matters by the Gulf States. His Highness the Amir of Kuwait conceived such a forum to promote cooperation and co-ordination amongst the member States in all spheres not only for their mutual benefit but also for the whole Arab nation.

On the Islamic level, Kuwait ardently believes that the progress of the Islamic Ummah is linked with the cooperation and co-existence of the Muslims in a spirit of tolerance and fraternity. Since the dawn of Kuwait's independence, this country exerted strenuous efforts, particularly under His Excellency Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the architect of Kuwait's foreign policy, who worked under the sagacious guidance of His Highness the Amir and the prudent leadership of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to fulfil Kuwait's strong commitment to the welfare and progress of the Islamic Ummah. This was aptly reflected when it hosted the 5th. OIC Summit meeting in January 1987.

On the International plane, Kuwait's foreign relations have always been balanced and based on openness. It is worth mentioning here that Kuwait was the first Gulf country to have recognised and established diplomatic relations with the erstwhile Soviet Union, in the cold war era, when many countries maintained a wary distance from the socialist bloc.

This candid approach in the conduct of its relations with other countries, based on cooperation, understanding and continuity, is not a mere coincidence or a passing phase that might be altered with a change of faces in the government. Rather, it is a philosophy felt deeply by the government and is based on self-confidence and mutual trust between the citizens and the government of Kuwait.

Kuwait aspires to a new approach in International Relations molded by a New World Order, which is based on international legitimacy and a rejection of the principles of using force, terrorism and aggression to alter the status quo.

Kuwait strongly advocates the continued role of the United Nations in ensuring international peace and security. Kuwait calls for international cooperation to protect humanity, individuals and groups from the dangers of ethnic, racial and State terrorism and all forms of concomitant threats and blackmails.

Kuwait's strong adherence to what it regards as the basic principles of her external policy has been put to severe tests on a number of occasions.

(Abridged)

NATIONAL

NEWS SNAPS

Bid to grab khas land

UNB, Natore
 In a bid to grab a plot of khas land, some terrorists set fire to a house built by a landless family on it at Adgram village in Boraigram upazila here recently.

Locals said landless Shahidur Rahman built the house on the land and was residing with his wife Jahanara and two sons since long.

But on the night of Feb 18 and in the absence of Shahid and his son Soel, 8, local terrorists identified as Moznu, Lalon and Mizan set fire to the house in which his minor son Akash, 3, suffered burn injuries. Jahanara Begum somehow managed to come out of the house with her injured son. She alleged that the terrorists were trying to evict them from the khas land.

Gamblers kill one at Sonagazi

BSS, Feni
 One person was killed and another injured critically in an attack by a group of gamblers at a village under Sonagazi upazila during an Eid congregation on Saturday.

According to police and witnesses, the group attacked some villagers as they protested gambling while an Eid congregation was on progress at Bogadama Eidgah, injuring two villagers critically. The injured were taken to Feni Cosmopolitan Hospital where one of them died. He was identified as Saiful, 26, son of Mafidul Haque. The other injured was identified as Jamshed Alam, 27.

Extortion on rise in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia
 A youth was shot and injured by the local extortionists at Alinagar in Sadar upazila last week.

Police said the terrorists tried to kidnap Abul Hossain at about 8pm on Feb 18 and when resisted by local people they fired shot at Abul, leaving him wounded. Abul, son of trader Golam Rasul, was sent to district general hospital in critical condition. Victim's father said the terrorists demanded toll from him recently and failing to realise the money they attacked his son. Local people were passing sleepless nights fearing attack by the extortionists.

Student killed in road accident

UNB, Nilphamari
 A youth was killed in a fatal traffic mishap at Kachari Bazaar area in sadar upazila on Nilphamari-Syedpur road here on February 20.

Police said Noor Alam, 17, of Bankmari of the upazila was killed when a Dhaka-bound bus hit his bicycle from behind at about 8 pm. The victim, an SSC examinee, was going for Eid shopping. Following the accident, agitated people put up barricade on the road suspending traffic movement for about four hours. However, the bus fled the scene. A case was filed with police.

One stabbed to death

UNB, Mymensingh
 A young man was killed by unidentified miscreants at Akua Madrasha quarters area of the town on Sunday.

Police said the assailants stabbed and beat up Mahmudul Hasan Apu, 27, at about 1.30 pm. He was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Police said Apu, son of Firujuddin of Senbari Road area, was an accused in several extortion and terrorism cases. Meanwhile, an alleged extortionist, Paul, was beaten by a mob in Senbari Road area in the afternoon and later handed over to police. He was admitted to MMCH under police guard.

5 language movement activists honoured

BSS, Barisal

Five renowned activists of the historic Language Movement were accorded reception at the Shaheed Minar premises as part of the seven-day programme of the golden jubilee of the Language Movement and the International Mother Language Day on February 21.

Presided over by Barisal Paurasava Chairman Ahsan Habib Kamal, the function was attended by Whip Mujibur Rahman Sarwar as chief guest.

The five language heroes are Abul Hasem, Mosharraf Hossain Nannu, Mosharraf Hossain Mohan, Rani Bhattacharya and Hosne Ara Niru all are residents of Barisal.

The chief guest awarded each of them a crest and prize bonds worth Taka 5 thousand as honorarium.

Irri-boro cultivation scheme

UNB, Madaripur

An intensive scheme has been taken up to bring 36,500 hectares of land under irri-boro cultivation in the district during the current season with a production target of 4.69 lakh metric tons.

Agricultural Extension Department sources said that of the total land, 33,200 hectares will be brought under high yielding 'Ufsi' variety and the rest 3,300 hectares under local variety.

According to the sources, 11,000 hectares will be cultivated in Sadar, 12,700 hectares in Kalkini, 8,750 hectares in Rajoir and 4,050 hectares in Shibpur upazilas.

Meanwhile, 28,000 hectares of land have already been cultivated and the rest will be brought under cultivation soon.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has supplied necessary seeds and other agriculture inputs at fair prices among the farmers.



Bangladesh Scouts, Islamic University, brought out a procession on the campus recently campaigning against use of polybags.

Amar Ekushey observed in Ctg, Khulna, Rajshahi

BSS, Chittagong

The golden jubilee of Amar Ekushey and the International Mother Language Day was observed in the port city with due respect and solemnity.

With the clock ticking by zero hour on Wednesday midnight, thousands of people from different strata of life gathered at local Shaheed Minar and placed wreaths one after another.

Different socio-cultural and political organisations, high government officials, student and professional organisations, and individuals started coming to the Shaheed Minar at one minute past midnight to pay tribute to the martyrs of Language movement.

To mark the day, different political, professional and socio-cultural organisations arranged daylong programmes including discussion meetings, Milad Mahfil, poetry recitation, art competitions for children and cultural functions in the city.

In Khulna, the programme of the day began with the placing of wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar by different political, socio-cultural, student and trade bodies and the district administration.

A huge procession was brought out in the city on Thursday morning. People from all walks of life took part in the procession.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil was held at the

Collectorate Jame Mosque and special prayers were offered in all mosques and other places of worshipping in the city.

A painting competition was also held on the Monjujan Girls' School premises.

A discussion was held at the local Shaheed Hades Park on the occasion.

The Amar Ekushey was also observed in Rajshahi in a befitting manner.

Political parties, student organisations, other socio-cultural organisations and different institutions brought out processions in the city just after midnight.

The day's other programmes include qurankhwani, milad mahfil, special prayers at different mosques and temples, discussion meetings and cultural programmes.

Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mijanur Rahman Minu, MP, placed wreaths at Bhuban Mohan Park Shaheed Minar one minute past midnight. He was followed by different organisations.

Bangladesh Betar, Rajshahi, aired a two-and-a-half-hour long special programme from Shaheed Minar live from 7.30 in the morning.

Vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof. Faisal Islam Faruqi and other officials placed wreaths at the RU Shaheed Minar.

Dhaka-Ctg rail link disrupted for 7 hrs

BSS, Chittagong

Rail communications between Chittagong and Dhaka, Sylhet and Chandpur remained suspended for about seven hours when a Chittagong-bound goods train derailed at Sharshadi near Feni on February 22.

The train was coming from Dhaka.

Railway officials said the communications were restored at about 2 pm when a relief train from Laksham reached the spot and removed the derailed wagon from

the track. The accident which occurred at about 7.15 am caused immense suffering to the home-bound passengers on the eve of the Eid-ul-Azha.

There was no report of any causality but the wagon carrying exportable goods was partially damaged.

At least ten trains including some intercity trains to and from the port city, Dhaka, Sylhet and Chandpur remained stranded in their respective stations for seven hours due to the derailment.

One jailed for attempted rape

UNB, Chapainawabganj

A court here sentenced a youth to five years' rigorous imprisonment for an attempt to violate a girl recently.

According to the prosecution, Saiful of Charjotpratab village in sadar upazila tried to rape a school-girl in a house at Kalayanpur last year. Hearing the screaming of the girl, local people rushed to the spot and handed over the culprit to police. After examining the witnesses and records, special tribunal Judge Kabita Khanam awarded the punishment on February 18.

Arms, ammunition recovered

BSS, Jhenidah

Two guns, including a sub-machine gun, and a huge number of ammunition were recovered from a house in the town on February 21, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house in Baparipara area in the morning and seized the Chinese sub-machinegun loaded with 15 bullets, a shutter gun loaded with bullets and two stolen motorcycles. In a separate drive, police arrested a man and seized a bullet-loaded shutter gun from him at Hatgopalpur in sadar upazila the previous day.

Construction of govt quarters hits snag

UNB, Rangamati

Construction of long-awaited residential quarters for the government employees has become uncertain due to administrative tangle.

The project was taken up to construct the multi-storied building by renovating the existing 61 quarters, which were under the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

Official sources said district Establishment Department invited tenders for the implementation of the project but it has had to be shelved because of the conflict relating to sanctioning of the fund.

They said the existing 61 quarters were constructed in 1979 and no renovation work was undertaken in the last 23 years.

Some employees complained that these quarters are now unfit for use due to its dilapidated condition.